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**OCEANIC SKETCHES.**



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**OCEANIC SKETCHES.**



# OCEANIC SKETCHES.

BY

THOMAS NIGHTINGALE, ESQ.

WITH

A BOTANICAL APPENDIX

BY

DR. HOOKER, OF GLASGOW.

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JAMES COCHRANE AND CO.,  
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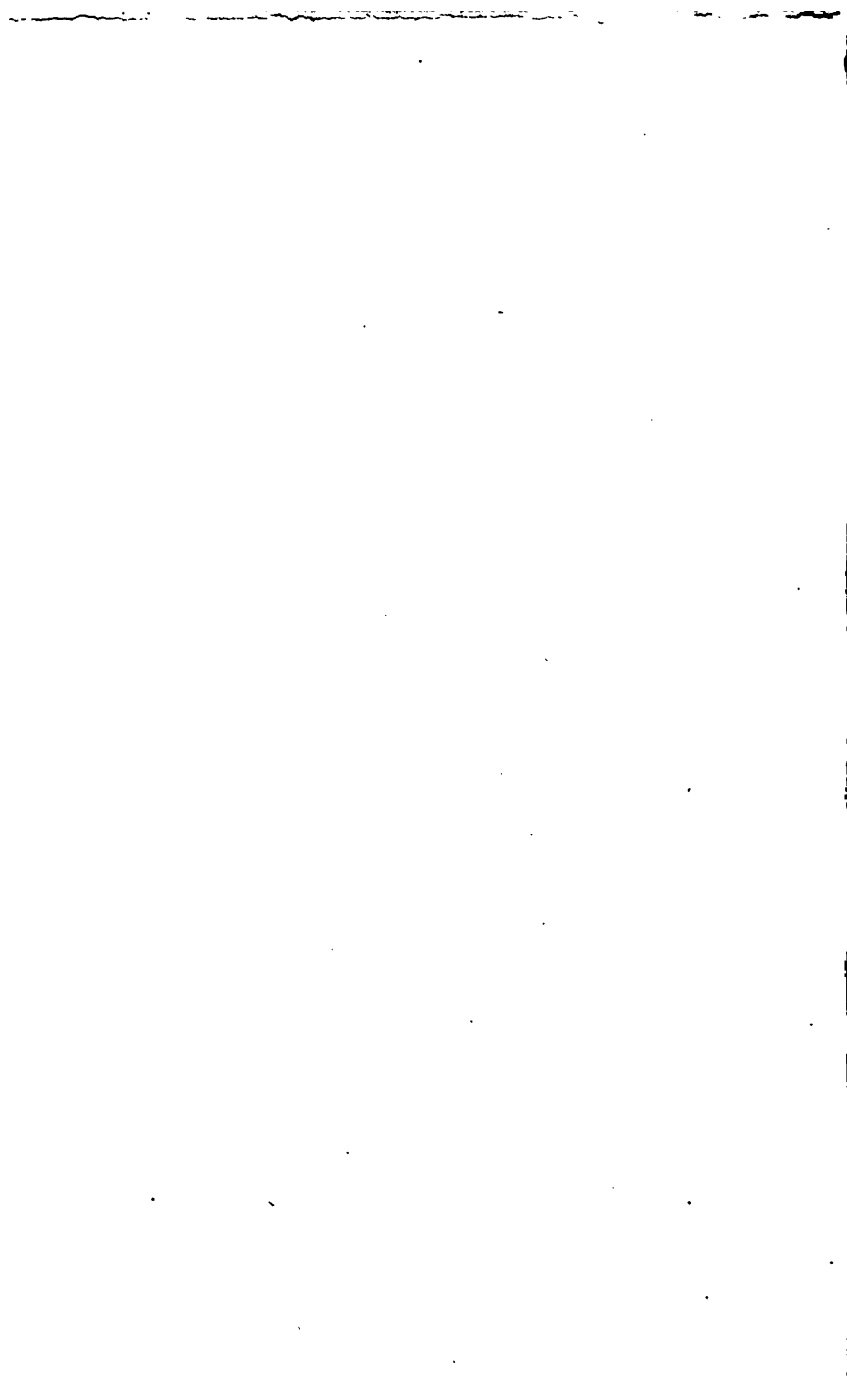
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**THE DUKE OF SOMERSET.**





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## ERRATA.

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PAGE 13, *for miles, read leagues.*

" 19, *dele about twelve miles inland.*

" 46, *for haper read paper.*

" 52, *for couch read conch.*

" 61, *for Simpson read Pitman.*

" 108, *for craw-fish read clam-fish.*

## INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

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IN contemplating human nature, and in considering its vast variety of condition, from the rudest state of barbarism up to the highest degree of mental culture, and the largest extent of social refinement, we are naturally, and, as it were, inevitably led to a scrutiny of the several circumstances which have occasioned those wide differences that exist between beings linked together by the common ties of nature, and by the holy bond of a similar destiny.

If this feeling or this contemplation be natural,—in other words, if it fall in and



accord with the common course of our reflections, how much more forcibly must an individual be impelled to its indulgence, who shall have actually witnessed, and thus positively realized the amazing distinction between man and man, caused by those incidents which, on the one hand, attach themselves to a state of little more than mere animal existence, and, on the other, display the power of mental and moral training through all its mighty and magnificent consequences.

Often, very often, has the writer of these pages, while coursing the southern division of the great Western Continent—or while visiting the various groups of islands which are scattered, as it were, with profusion on the Pacific Ocean—said to himself—Had Columbus, or some other individual of a master-mind, never conceived the probability of a Transatlantic World, or never followed out this grand conception into actual demonstration or discovery, what a vast difference of scene and of circum-

stance would the majestic sun daily witness, while throwing his light and splendour on the western hemisphere. Forests would still have stretched themselves out in sombre and solemn silence over plains that are now converted into large, populous, and powerful cities;—Nature's fairest and most beauteous productions would yet literally have continued to "waste their sweetness on the desert air." Swamps and marshes would still have existed, exhaling poison and pestilence, which are now, by human skill, changed into salubrious localities; and, above all, man, majestic but feeble man, would have dragged on a brutal existence, apparently with no other objects than to propagate his species, or fight the battles of his clan with a murderous and unmeaning vindictiveness, or to bow his head before the commands of a slavish superstition, worshipping idols, and feasting on the blood of his fellows; instead of being, as he has now become, the subject of a large and social com-

pact, enjoying the delights of life—restraining the causeless exercise of fierce and unruly passions, and adoring, not with the scalping-knife and tomahawk, nor in the wild orgies of human sacrifice, but with the fervent outpourings of his heart, and the aspirations of his better nature, the living and only God—the God of truth, of justice, and of mercy.

Would that the picture thus drawn were without its shades! Oh that we might virtually witness, in its full extent, the large measure of unmingled good that one should expect to follow from these mighty changes! But thus much must be admitted by the most sceptical and querulous, that when and where Christianity may have arisen, unincumbered by the inventions and superstitions of priestcraft and people, then and there “healing has ever been on its wings.” It may not have diffused the knowledge which puffeth up, and whose fruits are pride and vain-glory, but the inculcation of its precepts ever has

tended, and ever will tend, to mitigate and soften the savage wildness of the barbarian, to refine his grossness, humanize his affections, and dignify his propensities.

The most atrocious deeds heretofore committed with unconsciousness and impunity, have been opened up to view in all their blackness; and individuals, still perhaps only half civilized, have been brought to contemplate with shame and horror, what before they had regarded with complacency and delight.

I shall have opportunities, in the course of the ensuing narrative, of attesting the wonders—yes, I may call them—the wonders, that have been already wrought in the way of moral reformation by the despised—at least, the too often despised and much disparaged—Missionaries; and I shall feel myself compelled to do these deserving men that justice which is denied to them by some who are very little qualified to judge of the good they are effecting, or of appreciating the difficulties with which they have to contend.

While their contemners are sitting quietly, and perhaps indolently, under "their own vine and their own fig-tree," these men are encountering dangers almost insurmountable, with an enthusiasm and a perseverance which, in a warrior, would be esteemed the very height of valour and of heroism.

I do not mean to identify myself with the Missionary cause; my objects and pursuits have been of a different character; nor is it my design to engage in theological or polemical topics. I have only one duty to perform, that of narrating circumstances as I found them; and if, in the execution of this task, I may have occasion to give the meed of praise to Missionary labours, I shall, it is hoped, in so doing, be without the suspicion, that my sentiments have been warped by prejudice, or my delineations drawn with any intention of producing effect.

That I feel grateful for the kindness which every-where greeted me during my accidental sojourn among the benevolent individuals to

whom I now allude, I have no desire to conceal ;—at the same time, I do not wish to thrust myself forward as the avowed apologist of the Missionaries, but am only anxious that this little volume be received as an unsystematic record of what I met with during my singular, and not seldom, perilous wanderings, for the purpose of seeing nature under novel aspects, and selecting rarities from the earth, the ocean, and the skies.

I may say, in conclusion, that those who expect to find, in the following chapters, elaborate details as to the character and habits of the islanders whom I visited, will be disappointed. The observations which a stay of a few months amongst them enabled me to make, have necessarily been superficial ; and, had I not thought that any information respecting a part of the globe so little known, and so rarely visited by Europeans, might, from its very novelty prove interesting, I should scarcely have ventured to publish them.

This book, then, must be viewed merely as the index of those natural impressions and obvious feelings which cannot fail to arise in the mind of every man, who mingles for the first time with a strange and uncultivated race of his fellow-creatures : and if it shall be the means of inducing further enterprise and investigation, or shall serve as a stimulus to the still nobler work of ameliorating the condition of those upon whom the light of civilization has not yet beamed, the humble anticipations of the author will be more than realized—his hopes more than fulfilled.

# OCEANIC SKETCHES.

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## CHAPTER I.

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### CONTENTS.

VALPARAISO—Its Scenery—Fertility of the Soil—Style of Building—A Protection from the Earthquakes—Society—Anecdote—Callao—Its Ruinous Condition—Abject State of the Inhabitants—Banditti—Attacked by three Desperadoes—Partial Administration of Justice—Beauty and Riches of Lima still traceable—Picturesque Approach to the City—Houses—The Plaza—The Opera and Bull-Fights—Remarks on the latter Diversion—Its Influence on the People—Licentiousness and gross Immorality of the Inhabitants—Paita—Surrounded by Barren Sand-Hills—Indian Settlement on the Banks of the Amatape River—Festival in Honor of the Virgin Mary—Extraordinary Costumes—Dancing and Fireworks—Concluding Observations on the General State of Peru and Chili.

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CONSIDERATIONS partly of a scientific nature, and others of mere personal importance, induced me, in the middle of 1833, first to



visit the Coasts of Chili and Peru, and afterwards to extend my expedition to some of the numerous groups of islands situated in the South Pacific. From the frequent intercourse established of late years between Europe and that portion of South America lying adjacent to the sea, its localities, and the manners and customs of its people, have become so familiar as to offer, in the present day, but a barren subject for discussion. Feeling, therefore, that it would be uninteresting to linger, where so little of novel information is procurable, I shall, with a few cursory remarks, pass on to a part of the globe over which a veil of obscurity is still suspended, and the partial removal of which the following pages are intended to facilitate.

The first town I visited on the Southern Coast of America was Valparaiso,\* so called

\* Valparaiso is compounded of two Spanish words, signifying Vale of Paradise.

by its discoverers, but which, in my opinion, exhibits none of the perfections intimated by the appellation. The principal features of its scenery consist in distinct and fertile vallies, producing a variety of shrubs, aloes, and ferns, and animated by several species of the feathered tribe, all of which, including the beautiful Chilian humming-bird, are now well-known in Natural History. There is sufficient singularity observable in the style of building throughout this town, to excite attention; the houses, composed of light materials, are perched on the tops of lofty mountains, also on the sides and summits of precipices, many hundred, and sometimes thousand, feet in height. This plan is adopted as a security from the inroads of the sea, which not unfrequently, during an earthquake, rushes with irresistible violence over the low lands, and would inevitably overwhelm any buildings occupying a less elevated position.

The English settlers in Valparaiso consist

chiefly of a few merchants, whose habits and dispositions do not so exactly accord with our notions of conventional propriety, as to render their society agreeable to the generality of British travellers, from whose minds are not effaced all recollections of the decorous and sober demeanour exhibited by the same class in the mother-country. This may in some measure be accounted for, as, from their frequent intercourse and connection with the Spanish Americans, they have necessarily imbibed a portion of that intemperance and recklessness which the primitive settlers in the Southern Continent of America seem to have handed down as an heirloom to their descendants. I will here venture an anecdote, evincing the antipathy which the fair-sex of this country have to the patriarchal ornament of a beard. I was standing in the street one day, gazing at the curiosities around me, when two Spanish ladies seemed marvellously chagrined at my presence; and the hasty epithets of

*turquo*, *bruto*, and *diabolo*, from their gentle lips, pronounced the punishment I deserved for having allowed my chin to escape, during a whole six months, the operations of the barber.

After a brief stay at Valparaiso, I found myself, at the close of a ten days' passage, entering the roads of Callao. This, although the seaport town of Lima, is in a most ruinous and dilapidated condition; and the inhabitants, with a few exceptions, are of the lowest and most vicious class, exhibiting in their appearance a combination of depravity and abject poverty, to which, it is hoped, the world presents few parallels, and which it may with certainty be affirmed, cannot be surpassed. The route, comprising about three English miles from Callao to Lima, was infested, during my stay, by numbers of those daring and desperate banditti who form one of the chief perils to which a stranger is liable in these Spanish and Portuguese settlements. They

had become so open and violent in their attacks, that no one ventured to travel unarmed. Even the two public vehicles, which were the only communication between the towns, were at that period continually guarded by a military escort. In such a case, it is not surprising that unprotected pedestrians should meet with molestation; and during my short stay I was fated, personally, to experience the polite attentions of these gentlemen. Being once out on a shooting excursion, not far from the road in question, I was stopped by three of these ruffians, one of whom holding a musquet to my head, made the usual demand for plata. Fortunately I was accompanied by a friend; and, as we were both provided with pistols, we succeeded, though not without difficulty, in intimidating the desperadoes, who at length departed, threatening revenge at some future period. Had I been alone, it is probable that I should have had a more substantial proof of their vindictiveness than mere

mutterings. So partial is the administration of justice in this country, or, rather, so entirely is it perverted, that an individual possessed of wealth sufficient to purchase exemption from punishment, may perpetrate and repeat crimes of the blackest dye with a reckless impunity; while upon the poor wretch, unable to obtain immunity through the same corrupt means, who commits the most venial offence—the most trifling error, is immediately visited with the extreme severity of the law. And against such practices as these there is no protection—all appeals to the Government would be fruitless, nay, even extravagant!

The beauty, and, what were once deemed, boundless riches of Lima, have been extolled by many pens; and, although time and faction have partially diminished the glories of this far-famed city, the traces of its grandeur are still discernible, and it is considered, with the exception of Mexico, the finest town in Spanish America. The entrance to Lima appears more

picturesque, by the contrast it affords to the monotonous tract of country which forms the approach from Callao, when, without any prior introduction to suburban villas, cultivated gardens, or glowing landscapes, the traveller finds himself at once entering a succession of avenues, shaded by trees resembling our poplars, but more beautiful and luxuriant in their foliage, while at the same time a delightful fragrance is inhaled from the orange and lime, whose branches, laden alternately with fruit and blossoms, towering above the surrounding groves, add a fresh and exquisite enchantment to the scene, which terminates at a ponderous arched gateway, such as is depicted in Spanish romance, and which one might easily imagine erected to admit a chosen band of those invincible warriors who, in the bye-gone days of chivalry, formed the boast and bulwark of Spain—that land once known by the heroic deeds of her warlike sons, but now, alas, sunk, sunk in effeminacy and vice!

Having passed the barrier that guards its entrance, a large and regularly-built town, bearing evident marks of the wealth and pomp which formerly reigned there, presents itself to view. The houses are low and flat, as in Chili, and much ornamented with paintings, not of the chastest description. In the midst of Lima is a spacious square, called the Plaza, in the centre of which stands a public fountain, surmounted by a finely-sculptured image of Fame, whence descends a cascade of water into a large circular stone basin, surrounding the statue. The places of public amusement which I visited were the opera and the bull-fights. The latter diversions are so revolting to every feeling of humanity, that it seems impossible for any but a Spaniard or a Portuguese, habituated to such sanguinary spectacles from his earliest infancy, to derive any pleasure from beholding them. While I was there three criminals, who had been sentenced to death, were *mercifully* pardoned, upon con-



dition that they would receive the first rush of the infuriated bull, kneeling in the middle of the arena, a short spear being the only weapon of defence allowed to them. The poor creatures of course complied ; one of them was killed, his body mangled in the most dreadful manner ; the other two escaped with fractured limbs. It cannot be deemed surprising that assassinations are so numerous in this country, or that the inhabitants are such adepts in the art, when human existence is thus looked upon as naught compared with human gratification, and the taking away of life, though it be from a brute, is made a matter of mere wanton display ; and when the popular shout greets, and the contributions of the rich and the noble are liberally bestowed upon him who exercises the most skill in this debasing occupation.

The people of Lima, more particularly the females, even in the highest classes, are extremely licentious and dissipated. Their total disregard of external delicacy is truly proved

by a prevailing style of dress, called the *Siamanta*, evidently invented for the purposes of intrigue, which is here, with few exceptions, practised unscrupulously by both sexes. In fact, the observance of moral duties forms no part of the *Limanian* creed, and vice, disdaining even the semblance of virtue, walks abroad in all the grossness of its nature.

From Lima I proceeded to Paita, a small uninteresting town upon the Peruvian coast, about twelve miles inland. The country surrounding it is one vast collection of sand-hills, on whose surface grows neither shrub, grass, nor any other kind of vegetation. The rocks in the vicinity are imbedded with shells, thus giving evident marks that the waves once rolled over the ground that is now covered with the haunts and dwelling-places of man. The houses in the town are built of bamboo canes tied together, and the roofs partially thatched with straw ; but, in a climate where rain is rarely seen more than once in four

years, this simple mode of building is not considered incompatible with comfort. During the whole period I remained in this part of the country, I was hospitably received at the dwelling of Mr. Higginson, an English merchant, to whose kindness and liberality many of his countrymen have been indebted, while roving, like myself, far from the land of their nativity.

Previously to leaving Peru, I visited, in company with an American officer, an Indian settlement situated on the borders of the Amatape River, which supplies Paita with water, contained in large calabashes, and brought thence, a distance of forty miles, on donkeys, driven by the natives. In the course of our journey, through the obstinacy of our guides, combined with the slow pace of the animals which conveyed us, we were compelled to repose one night on the Sandy Desert, exposed to heavy dews, the injurious effects of which, in a tropical climate, are

especially to be apprehended by the European travellers. Arrived at the banks of the Amatape, I observed, in luxuriant growth, the mangrove and beautiful mimosa trees, in whose foliage lodged a varied throng of birds, glittering in the gay plumage of a tropical clime. From stem to stem, in sportive gambols, leaped the gray squirrel, while the more elevated branches, crested with small yellow flowers, afforded their honied nutriment to the diminutive trochilus, (or humming-bird,) whose delicate form seems fitted only to grace a fairy landscape, whence the beholder might not inaptly imagine it had originally strayed. Extending even to the river's brink, were thick plantations of cotton and maize; and here and there was scattered a species of palm, several feet in height; its stem, entirely divested of foliage, rendered more singularly striking the leafy coronal, which, waving gracefully from its summit, seemed to look down as if in magnificent disdain on the earth's more puny

offspring. The river itself is infested with numerous alligators, whose numbers are occasionally diminished, when young, by a large description of crested-crane, which frequents the adjacent sands. While I staid at this settlement, I was present at a fête given in honor of the Virgin Mary, to which numbers of Indians flocked from all parts, arrayed in the most extraordinary costumes, intended to represent different animals, such as cows, pigs, &c. Some of the ornaments which shone conspicuously among the plumes of ostrich feathers that composed their head-dresses were of great value, being made of virgin gold, extracted from the Peruvian mines. There was nothing singular in the style of dancing, except that some of the party held in their hands, during the performance, a wooden spear, decked with variously-coloured ribbons, which they flourished about them with an amazing rapidity. Feasting and revelry occupied a great portion of the night, which terminated

with a display of fireworks, scarcely inferior to exhibitions of a similar kind in Europe.

Shortly after returning from Amatape, I had a final adieu to South America, and left without regret the shores of a land, pre-eminent, it is true, in natural beauty, but sunk in an abyss of misery and crime which are fast hurrying it to destruction. Nothing can be more deplorable than the present political and social state of Chili and Peru. Unbridled license and misrule prevail under the boasted name of freedom; and it is certain that the interests of the country have been gradually retrograding since its emancipation from the Spanish yoke. This is the conclusion I have drawn from actual observation and the testimony of the inhabitants, who also aver that it was formerly (being then proportionably wealthy) less difficult to pay the exorbitant prices charged for articles of trade, than it is to procure them at their present reduced rate. We scarcely dare enquire what can be the

ultimate fate of a land like this, torn by intestine feuds, possessing no home manufactures, and consequently paying in specie (a now perpetually-decreasing source of wealth) for foreign commodities, which continue to be sold at enormous profits, governed, moreover, by rulers absolved in selfish projects, and utterly regardless of the ruin or welfare of those over whom they preside? Such a state of affairs, it is evident to an impartial observer, cannot exist beyond a very limited period. Even now, tottering beneath a weight of crime, its approaching downfall, accelerated by the political dissensions of its inhabitants, the Spanish portion of South America, must eventually, unless protected by a stronger power than at present upholds it, become again subject to the aboriginal possessors. Ages have passed away since the Indian was exiled from the beautiful and sunny land of his nativity, yet has not the lapse of centuries dimmed the recollection of that fatal hour, or lessened the desire of

vengeance, transmitted through successive generations, which still burns like a never-dying flame in the bosoms of this injured race.



## CHAPTER II.

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**ADIEU** to the American Shores—Arrived at James's Island, belonging to the Gallipagos—Tortoises found in Abundance on the Coast—Total Absence of Fresh Water and Springs in these Islands, with one Exception—Seemingly not designed for the Dwelling-place of Man—Recent Colonization of Charles' Island—Large Yellow Lizards found in the Mountains, eaten by the Sailors—No Quadrupeds—Four Kinds of Land Birds, their excessive Tameness—Similar Natural Productions to those of Chili and Peru—Deduction from this Coincidence—Mountain of Salt—Remains of a Crater—Hawksbill Turtle—Curious Mode of depositing their Eggs—Two American Sailors on the Island—A human Skeleton found on the Top of one of the Mountains—Whale Fishing.

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WITH the brief remarks contained in the previous chapter, I take a final leave of the American shores, whence I departed January

15th, 1834, and, after a brisk sail of a few days, arrived at James' Island, belonging to the Gallipagos group, nine in number. Here we anchored for three days, in order to procure a supply of tortoises, which are found in great abundance, and of an enormous size, some of them measuring from four to six feet in length, and four in breadth. They are, moreover, so weighty, that the united strength of five men, alternately exercised, is required to convey them from the mountains. The total absence of fresh-water and springs, with one exception,\* throughout the Gallipagos, would incline us to believe that these remote spots of earth were never intended for the dwelling-place of man. There is no trace of original inhabitants to be discovered ; and the recent colonization of Charles' Island, by a party of Guayaquilanians, is the only attempt on record made to fix, amidst these solitary

\* Charles' Island.

recesses, a permanent abode. The whole of the group, according to the reports I met with, presents the same natural features as those observable in James' Island; but as I did not visit any of the remainder, I cannot speak with certainty on the subject. The sides and summits of the mountains are entirely covered with trees and long grass, and produce a large species of lizard of a deep orange-colour, its back surmounted by a white comb. These creatures burrow in the earth like rabbits, are extremely unprepossessing in their appearance, but perfectly harmless, and are sometimes taken for food, in preference to the tortoise, by the crews of vessels that anchor here. I did not meet with any quadrupeds; and only saw four kinds of land-birds, namely, two sorts of hawk, a small brown turtle-dove, and a species of sparrow, all of which are so excessively tame, that they frequently, during my rambles, perched on my head, and rested there in fearless security, alike unconscious of

the power and will too often inherent in the lords of the creation to tyrannise over and injure her inferior members. Their confiding tameness bespoke how rarely a human footstep had broken the solitude of those sequestered haunts; and it was a pleasing reflection, to a mind somewhat weary with toil and solicitude, that at least there was one green spot, in this wide world of ours, where suspicion and mistrust were unknown, and their baneful effects unfelt! The trees and shrubs I met with were the same as those I have noticed in Chili and Peru; and this coincidence, combined with the volcanic strata of the island, induces me to think it highly probable that the Gallipago group, now six hundred miles distant from the main land, at one period joined the vast Continent of America, and was separated from it by one of those awful convulsions of nature, which have ever been, and still continue to be, a marked characteristic of this portion of the New World. But however plausible this con-

jecture may be, as to the relative position of these islands on the earth's surface, the subject is still surrounded with difficulties, and remains impenetrable to philosophical research: for, no sooner is one opinion formed, than a contradictory light breaks on the observer's mind, subverts the validity of his former reasoning, and establishes a new theory in its place. Thus the remarkable circumstance, that neither the adjoining continent, nor any of the neighbouring islands, produce the large species of tortoise found amongst the group now under consideration, may perhaps be deemed of sufficient importance to defeat the supposition that these isles ever held a geographical position different from their present one. On the west side of James' Island I discovered a mountain composed of salt; and, a short distance from this, the remains of a crater, but no signs of any recent eruption, though a considerable portion of the adjacent ground was strewed with decayed lava. In

the evening, at certain seasons, the beach is covered with numbers of the hawksbill turtle, which come on shore for the purpose of depositing their eggs: to this process I was myself a witness, having seen one make an aperture in the sand with her hind flippers, lay one hundred and twenty eggs, cover them over, and then return to her natural element. On leaving James' Island, we were accompanied by two American sailors, who had resided there for nearly two months, having sought a refuge from the tyranny of their captain in that deserted spot. These men were beginning, when we arrived, to suffer much from the scarcity of water, which can be obtained only during the rainy season. The absence of this necessary of life most probably occasioned the fatal catastrophe, the melancholy memento of which met my gaze, as gaining one morning the mountain's summit, I beheld a human skeleton, whitening in the sun, the remains, no doubt, of some unfortu-

nate being, who, finding naught within the plains or valleys to slake his burning thirst, had climbed that lofty height in search of a spring or rivulet, and, discovering neither, had thus miserably perished !

After quitting the Gallipagos, several succeeding weeks were occupied by our whaler in seeking her cargo from the ocean's depths. Anxious to witness so exciting a scene as the attack and capture of the mighty leviathan, I volunteered to accompany the boat's crew in their hazardous expedition : our first attempt proved most successful, for in a few hours we returned to the vessel with our prize, a sperm-whale, measuring sixty feet in length, and forty in circumference. The next trial, however, was of a less-encouraging nature, the boat being assailed (as it often happens) by the intended victim, who, opening his terrific jaws, threatened us with instant destruction. For a few moments we were suspended, as it were, between life and death, unknowing

which would be our lot ; and, but for the timely aid of another boat, all our efforts must have been unavailing to avert the fate that seemed so near. Excursions of similar peril, in which the sailors were continually engaged, formed the only exception I experienced, for nearly three months, to the dull and tedious sameness of a life on shipboard.



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## CHAPTER III.

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MARQUESAN, or Washington Islands—Newkehevah—The Islanders Cannibals—Their Appearance—Landing by Mistake—Critical Situation—American Missionaries—Obstacles they have to contend against—Their long Stay not likely to be practicable—Misrepresentations of Mr. Stewart's Narrative—Birds of the Island—Doves, red, white, and green—Dare not penetrate into the Interior—Convenient Harbour at Newkehevah—Cocoa-Nuts and Bread-Fruit the principal Food of the Natives—Revolting Ceremony at the Death of a King, or Chief.

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It was not until the middle of March 1834, that we arrived at the Marquesan, or Washington Islands. When off the weather-side of

Newkehevah, the captain and myself landed at Tipie Bay, supposing, by mistake, the American Missionaries were stationed there, and consequently imagining we might do so with perfect safety. Scarcely had we put our feet on shore, when we were immediately surrounded by a crowd of the horrible-looking natives, who seemed to have exerted all the art they possessed to render themselves hideous. Entirely destitute of clothing, their limbs were tattooed with curious and uncouth figures, the crowns of their heads closely shaven, while their remaining hair, which was very long, hung down in thick shaggy tresses, nearly covering their faces. A few minutes sufficed to augment the numbers of these terrific beings to an alarming extent; some came armed with spears, and were evidently preparing to convey us up the valley. At this juncture our situation was most critical; without defensive weapons, completely in the power of savages, whose intent of devouring us, when

introduced to the remainder of their tribe, was too painfully obvious, the whole population of these islands being cannibals, and preferring human flesh to any other kind of food. Such was our state of anxiety and apprehension, becoming, too, more acute at every moment, when I suggested, as the only expedient likely to preserve our lives, the necessity of endeavouring to conciliate the natives, by voluntarily offering them, as presents, every article we had in the boat, which, at any rate, would have been shortly appropriated without our concurrence. Luckily, amongst other things were some gaudy-coloured handkerchiefs, which seemed to give great satisfaction, and were bestowed as a propitiatory oblation on some of the most ferocious-looking of the party. Our stores being at length exhausted, the promise of returning with a fresh supply, if permitted to go on board, alone induced them to sanction our departure for the vessel, which was safely anchored that same evening

in the adjacent harbour of Newkehevah, where, finding the mission was established, we proceeded for a supply of water. Our appearance on shore the following day was greeted by a horde of savages, equally ferocious in aspect as those we had just left, and amidst whose discordant yells and reiterated exclamations, we with some difficulty succeeded in reaching the dwellings of Messrs. Parker, Armstrong, and Alexander, who, with their wives and families, had lately arrived from the United States. These gentlemen informed us, that all their endeavours had hitherto proved futile to effect even the slightest change, either in the habits or demeanour of these barbarous and incorrigible people, who, existing in the most degraded state, practise every vice of which uncivilized man is capable. Here cannibalism and human sacrifices prevail under their most appalling forms; and it was not without a shudder we learnt, that very recently several sailors

had fallen victims to this revolting propensity, two of whom had actually met their fearful doom at Tipie Bay, the scene of our danger, and, we might truly say, Providential escape.

Amongst the many barriers to Missionary success in these islands, the absence of a monarch, or head-chief, whose support and protection might be available to the cause and its promoters, appears to be the principal obstacle. For although the title of king is conferred on one of the tribe, his power is all but nominal, as each individual arrogates to himself an equal share of authority; and thus in savage, as in civilized life, anarchy, confusion, and violence, are ever found following the footsteps of insubordination.

During my sojourn on this island, I was present at an address delivered by one of the Missionaries, on the Sabbath, to these degraded people, who, habited in war costume, with beautiful caps made of birds' feathers, and their waists, necks, and legs encircled

with shells, were assembled in greater numbers than usual ; but no symptom of attention or respect to the service in which they were engaged was visible, curiosity to see the white strangers being the true motive of their coming, as they scruple not to evince the utmost scorn for the new religion attempted to be introduced amongst them. Never did human nature present a more forcible picture of moral degradation, than is exhibited by the Marquesan islanders; sunk in the grossest natural depravity, inaccessible to the voice of reason or religion, both the presence and doctrine of the Missionaries are alike incapable of producing the desired reformation. This fact, at the time I allude to, had become sufficiently apparent to the ministers themselves, and it was evident a much longer stay would be impracticable, the abduction of their wives, and their own destruction, having been already threatened. To me it was a matter of astonishment, considering the ferocious and un-



tractable disposition of the natives, how they had been able to make a settlement there at all. Yet it is this island, which the Reverend Mr. Stewart, in his Narrative of the South Seas, eulogises in such glowing terms. His representation, like an exquisitely-finished portrait, which, nevertheless, conveys no just idea of the features it professes to delineate, might pass current with those to whom the original is unknown, though by others its want of similitude must be instantly detected, and the artist's inaccuracy as promptly condemned. Thus Mr. S.'s account of the Marquesas may be perused with pleasure as an interesting and amusing invention ; but when related, and presented to the public as absolute fact, it cannot be too-highly censured for misleading the judgment of those who are unable to ascertain its falsity. It is greatly to be lamented, that so elegantly-written a narrative should have been marred by the introduction of fiction. To what imminent perils has

not this departure from veracity exposed Mr. Stewart's own countrymen, who, rashly confiding in his reports, hesitated not, contrary to the advice of the English Missionaries, to convey three young and delicate females, with their helpless infants, to shores where outrages are wantonly and openly perpetrated, and from whose contaminating vicinity the least sensitive European would shrink with apprehension and disgust. To determine, however, the motive of Mr. Stewart's publication, in conjunction with the visit of the Vincennes frigate, no great penetration is required, the whole machinery being evidently of political construction, as it is well-known our Transatlantic brethren have long desired to gain an entrance on some of the Pacific islands ; and the notion of a republic, such as Newkehevah was represented, must have been more especially in unison with their national prejudices. Some strong incentive alone could have induced any writer to paint

in such brilliant colours the condition of this island ; when a few hours' observation, by any unbiassed spectator, must have sufficed to discover its inaccuracy. The blush of modesty so gallantly ascribed to the Marquesan women, together with other amiable qualities mentioned by the too-indulgent author, might in vain be sought for, and assuredly never existed but in his fertile imagination. How could he bestow such an appellation as the *Happy Valley* on a spot that might far more consistently be termed the retreat of murder, sensuality, and every species of abomination. I shall not any further notice the errors of this gentleman, but content myself with a general assertion of the incorrectness of his narrative.

The countenances and aspects of these islanders, naturally handsome, are, from the means they take to disfigure themselves, rendered ferocious and forbidding beyond conception ; and it is impossible not to remark the fine athletic figures and admirably pro-

portioned limbs of the male sex, and the delicate and well-formed hands of the other. These truly constitute the only natural perfections of a race in whose character there is so much for morality to shudder at, and humanity to mourn over.

While at this island, I occasionally ventured, with my gun, a short distance from the beach, in order to procure some doves, of a green, white, and red plumage, which, although numerous, are difficult to obtain, being in great request with the natives, whose war-dresses are composed of their beautiful feathers. That there are other species of birds in the interior, cannot be doubted, but as an excursion thither would unquestionably have terminated at the first morais, this knowledge was not positively attained. When on shore, one morning, I was much amused to observe a shoe, abstracted the day previously from my cabin, decorating the head of a native chief. This novel ornament, surmounted by a large

banana-leaf, produced the most ludicrous effect. Thieving may be reckoned amongst the most venial of Marquesan crimes; though, like every other evil propensity, here it is carried to excess. There is a fine and convenient harbour at Newkehevah, sheltered on every side by mountains, the entrance of which, though rather narrow, presents no obstacle to the egress of vessels, as a light breeze blows from the land every morning, and thus renders their departure practicable. Near the beach is a supply of fresh-water, with abundance of bananas, cocoa-nuts, and bread-fruit, which form the principal food of the savages, when a more palatable repast on human flesh is not procurable.

I cannot close this sketch of Newkehevah, without adverting to a curious, though revolting ceremony, which takes place there at the death of a king, or chief. Shortly before our arrival, one of these obsequies was celebrated, and the particulars were related to me by an

eye-witness of the whole scene, which, on the occasion referred to, was acted in honour of the gods, upon the king's demise. This horrible rite is commenced by the immolation of a certain number of individuals, to appease the supposed anger of the gods. Should these be obtainable at the different bays, with which this island abounds, and whose respective inhabitants are at constant warfare with each other, none of their own tribe are sacrificed; but, otherwise, the allotted complement must be supplied from amongst themselves. It is during the darkness and silence of night that these victims to a barbarous and fearful superstition are entrapped. The light canoe, gliding stealthily through the water, conveys to the enemy's shores her dread freight of fierce and murderous beings, who, rushing into the tents of their slumbering foes, momentarily suspend over each a ponderous club,\* and, at

\* Made from the ito, or iron-wood tree.

a preconcerted signal, aim the deadly blow ; then, bearing away the bodies to the scene of their frightful orgies, fling them on a pile of stones erected for the purpose, where they are left to decay. The next act, in this most extraordinary and disgusting performance, presents several men in warlike guise, their wrists and ankles bound with human hair, executing the war-dance before the deceased king's remains. To these succeed members of both sexes in a state of complete nudity, who, after singing and dancing for a considerable time, take sharp pieces of shell and inflict, on certain parts of their bodies, deep wounds and incisions, from the effects of which death frequently ensues. The women belonging to the king's household remain constantly near the body, until it becomes thoroughly putrified, when his favorite wife scrapes all the flesh off the bones, and, enclosing them in a piece of cloth, made from the haper mulberry-tree, preserves these mortal relics in the dwelling

occupied by the king while living. Repeatedly, during the progress of decomposition, particles of the decaying body mingle with the food of the watchers who are seated underneath ; but neither this, nor any other circumstance, induces them to move, as such a breach of respect, they believe, would arouse the implacable vengeance of their gods. The Missionaries told me that, so overpowering was the stench emitted from this filthy and obnoxious ceremony, that they were obliged to remove their habitations in consequence.



## CHAPTER IV.

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**SOCIETY Islands—Huahini—Mr. Barff, the English resident Missionary—I obtain an Apartment in the Queen Maheira's Palace—Visit her Majesty—Late War between Huahini and Barabola—The Queen headed her Troops in Person—A Fact, attesting the good the Missionaries are working—The Scenery of Huahini particularly attractive—Native Huts—Christianity established—Idols no longer worshipped—Cannibalism completely eradicated—Translation of the Bible into Tahitian—Recollections of Mahini, an old Native—His Address to the Meeting, as well as those of the Native Teacher and Mr. Loxton—Death of a Native Chief—His Trust in the Efficacy of revealed Religion.**

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**ON the 23d of March, after a visit of eight days, we quitted the Marquesas, and the horrors of those polluted shores were gradually**

obliterated in the contemplation of new and brighter scenes, which the variegated and beautiful landscapes of the Society Islands presented to my admiring view. I landed, on the 1st of April, at Huahini, the next in size and consideration to Otaheite, and, after bidding adieu to Captain F., the companion of many past months, took up my quarters at the dwelling of Mr. Barff, who, for nearly seventeen years, had resided as Missionary in this island, and was warmly and deservedly beloved by the numerous converts to his pure and holy faith. During my stay here, I continued his guest, and received at all times, from himself and family, the most friendly and hospitable attention. Through this gentleman's influence, I obtained an apartment in the Queen Masheira's palace, (a large well-built house, situated on a pile of stones close to the water,) where I deposited my botanical and other specimens. On the morning after my arrival, accompanied by Mr. Barff, I paid a

visit to her majesty, who received me with much courtesy and kindness, though a great invalid since the late war with Barabola, whose people laid claim to the island. During the various engagements which took place, the queen, armed with a musket, headed the Huahineans in person, and her brave example tended in a great measure to gain the victory. In one action she had a very narrow escape of being captured by the enemy, and was only saved by her husband, named Noo, a very intelligent and interesting man, much attached to the queen, snatching her up in his arms, and carrying her to the rear. Her age, at present, is about fifty; she has a pleasing countenance, which bears evident marks of beauty when young, though now much altered by her recent illness. She always shewed me the utmost kindness, her house and attendants were at my service; and when I asked her, which I frequently did, if I might be allowed to make her some remuneration in return, she

invariably answered "No; you are a friend of Mr. Ellis, and that is sufficient." A few years ago Mr. E. was Missionary at Huahini. How much more does a simple fact like this tell in favour of the Missionaries, and the good they are working, than the most ingenious and elaborate arguments.

The scenery at Huahini is particularly attractive; its peaked mountains, resembling, in the delicacy of their jutting points, the most finished architectural adornments, clothed in bright verdure of varied shades, may be viewed rising gradually from the sea, till their lofty summits are lost amid the clouds. At the base of these stupendous heights are fertile and luxuriant valleys, intermingled with thick groves of bread-fruit and cocoa-nut trees. Along the beach are seen the native huts, mostly covered with white plaster; and an occasional glimpse may be obtained, through the intervening foliage, of the neat and simple church,—emblem of that pure religion which

is now constantly preached to attentive congregations of those from whom the darkness of superstition and idolatry had once veiled it. The Society Islands no longer retain those practices, so disgraceful to humanity, described by the early navigators : no longer do we behold a concourse of armed men, dragging their conquered victim to sacrifice : no longer is heard, reverberating from hill to hill, the appalling and dissonant sound of the war-cough. The senseless images of wood and stone, worshipped through a series of by-gone ages, now lie mouldering in oblivion, while Christianity rears her meek and holy faith upon the ruins of ignorance and falsehood. Who, possessing one sentiment of philanthropy, could gaze, uninfluenced by pleasurable emotions, on a numerous assembly of converted heathens, uniting in prayer and praise to the only true God, listening with rapt attention to the promise of salvation, the words of eternal life pronounced in the soft

harmonious language of their own native isles; or could withhold his tribute of praise from the supporters of an Institution productive of such glorious results; or refuse to laud still more warmly the indefatigable zeal and ceaseless exertions of those excellent men who, amidst dangers and hardships, have hitherto dispensed, and are yet labouring to spread more widely the light of truth and knowledge throughout these remote territories,—objects which the translation of the Bible into the Tahitian language, together with the formation of schools for the instruction of youth of both sexes, tend greatly to facilitate. An anniversary meeting of the chiefs and elders of the Church is held to commemorate the adoption of Christianity, and, at the same time, to select native teachers to commence the work of conversion in other islands of the Pacific. At one of these interesting assemblies in Huahini I happened to be present, and was especially attracted by the manner

and appearance of the first speaker, an ancient venerable-looking warrior, the former king of that island, but who had abdicated some years in favour of his niece, Masheira. He perfectly remembered the landing of Captain Cook in 1777, and related many instances of inhumanity committed by that ill-fated navigator, such as causing the ears of innocent persons, not concerned in the depredations on his property, to be cut off, when unable to detect the real delinquents. This, to say the least, was unjust, and ought, if only from policy, to have been avoided. Far be it from me to censure the memory of that brave and enterprising commander, over whose barbarous and untimely death even the savage perpetrators of that ruthless deed have since shed tears of mingled penitence and regret.

Mahine, for that was the name of the old man, now became a pattern of religious and moral worth, delivered with great animation, though occasionally his voice faltered with the

tremulousness of age, a speech of which the following is a translation; "My people do with energy this good work—this is indeed a good work, a work of mercy, in which we can all unite, in which we become one in heart and labour; it was not so formerly in our heathen state; I hesitated not to kill you then for a slight offence, but the gospel inspires us with another spirit, a spirit of love to God and to one another. Be thankful to God for the gospel, and manifest your thankfulness by liberal contributions to this society, that islands, which are now as miserable as we once were, may become, through the blessing of God and the gospel, as happy as we are now."

Taiete, afterwards sent as teacher to the Navigator Islands, next spoke.

"The subscriptions of which I have read the list, are from our school, a tribute of compassion to the poor children of the heathen; my labours in this school end, but those of



you that continue at home, do not neglect our children. You know rotten fire-wood will not make the stove hot, but good fire-wood will; let your exertions resemble the sound fire-wood, warm and vigorous, then God will not fail to bless your labours both at home and abroad. Paul says, he that soweth sparingly shall reap sparingly. Give cheerfully of your little property, that the gospel may flourish abundantly."

This address was succeeded by a very appropriate one from Mr. Loxton, lately appointed to the island of Ulitea.

"It is highly interesting, my Christian friends, to find that the gospel excites such lively interest among you. A congregation so large, so suddenly collected for such a great object, forms a pleasing contrast to what you once were. There is as great a distinction between your past and present condition, as there is between the Gods you then bowed down to, and the ever-blessed God whom you

now adore. Those were altogether vile and polluted, but this is the essence of truth, holiness, and love: and is it not the spirit of love received from him that has brought us here to day? an object like that we have in view calls for patience and perseverance, and God will not fail to give the blessing. To urge upon others the religion we have experienced to be precious to our own souls, is a most delightful task. Many have gone out from amongst the heathen, and have been blessed in their labours. Ever remember, God is looking down upon us; he hears all, sees all, and loves and approves the work of mercy. Be holy, be kind, be compassionate, and you will be happy, be followers of God and imitators of Jesus Christ."

At the earnest request of Mr. Barff, I also expressed to the multitude the interest I felt in the great cause they were met to commemorate and promote.

On the day following I attended the death-

bed of a young chief who was expiring from the effects of a mortification in the leg, his wife and family having strenuously objected to amputation. The sick couch was surrounded by several natives earnestly engaged in prayers. When these were finished, Mr. Barff informed the sufferer that life was fast ebbing to its close. He appeared perfectly resigned, extending his hand to all around him, and exclaimed in the laconic style peculiar to the South Sea Islanders, "If it is ordained, be it so;" while a smile of Christian triumph, beaming with hopes of an inheritance beyond the grave, that would eclipse even the brightness of his own isle, flitted like a meteor across the features of the dying man. A scene like this would have done honour to a land, where the precepts of the gospel had been for centuries inculcated!

## CHAPTER V.

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Departure of Mr. Barff and Myself—Affection shewn by the Islanders to Mr. B.—Ulitea, natural Characteristics similar to those of Huatini—Its social Condition much inferior—Visit the Harvey Islands—Rarotonga the principal—Delightful Residence of Messrs. Buzacott and Simpson—The Romantic Beauty of the Scenery—My Excursions in the Island—Continually followed by Crowds of the Natives—Insects—Birds—The Chiefs send Parties into the Mountains for their Plumage—Accompany Mr. Buzacott to Church—Another Instance of the kindly Feeling of the Natives to the Missionaries—Anecdote relative to their former barbarous Condition—No Anchorage for Vessels—Pasturage extremely rich—Cattle thrive here well—Wyloache.

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SHORTLY after the meeting recorded in the last chapter, Mr. Barff being about to visit some of the distant Leeward Islands, where

native Missionaries had been previously established, invited me to accompany him, an opportunity of which I gladly availed myself, preparations were speedily made for the furtherance of this interesting expedition. No sooner was it known that Mr. B. was about to depart, than his residence was thronged by natives of both sexes, who came to take leave of their respected Missionary. Even the blind, led by their relatives, kissing his hands and feet, prayed with tears for his safe return. On the 2d of May our party, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. B. and family, with Mr. and Mrs. Loxton, embarked on board a small schooner of sixty tons, and the same evening landed at Ulitea, the destination of the new Missionary and his wife. This island so closely resembles, in scenery and natural productions, the one we had just left, that the same description may with equal truth be applied to both. The social condition, however, of Ulitea is far inferior to that of Hua-


hini, as the people seem to be gradually relapsing into their original dissolute habits, an evil partly attributable to the late war with Borabola, a neighbouring island, and also to the fact, that they have been without a resident missionary since the departure of Mr. Williams for England. May 5th we again set sail, and bidding a temporary adieu to the Society Islands, reached Rarotonga, the principal of the Harvey Group. The beach was crowded with people eagerly awaiting our arrival, all anxious to touch the hands of the White Chief, (the appellation by which I was known amongst them.) Messrs. Buzacott and Simpson, the Missionaries here respectively stationed on the eastern and western sides of the island, have delightful residences built in the English style, adorned in front with trelliced veranders, and environed by well-cultivated gardens filled with pine-apples and other fruit. Rarotonga has been justly deemed the Queen of the South Sea Isles,

and is pre-eminent in natural attractions. While it resembles, in some respects, those that are grouped around it, it also possesses features distinct from any I elsewhere observed. The mountainous and rocky heights there made a remarkably romantic appearance. Broken into a thousand fantastic shapes, it scarcely required the aid of imagination to convert them into the ruins of ancient fortresses or gothic castles, while round their bases extended several miles of table land, planted at right angles with shady walks, on each side of which flourished the Cocoa-nut, Banana, Papaw, and Te trees. Often, whilst wandering along these sheltered avenues, and occasionally glancing through the interstices of the foliage at the beautiful landscape beyond, has it seemed to me the realization of some bright vision or poetic dream, so tranquil, so imposing in its mute magnificence was the fairy-like aspect of this romantic isle.

The native cottages here are remarkable for

their clean and neat appearance, and it is with sentiments of the most pleasurable description I recall the recollection of my sojourn amid scenes so replete with beauty, where, at the same time that Nature was shedding her richest gifts in unrestrained profusion, I was experiencing many of the comforts of a European life.

Here I commenced my entomological researches, to the great amusement of the natives, who at first imagined I caught the butterflies for food. Their curiosity was unbounded, and often proved a great source of annoyance, as I was frequently followed, during these excursions, by three or four hundred persons, and no sooner was one crowd dispersed at the instigation of their chief, to whom I occasionally appealed, than another party, equally formidable, arose to attend me, and to observe the progress of my novel, and, to them, most extraordinary avocation. The only insects, that deserve particular mention, are a species





belonging to the family of the walking-stick insects, which are so numerous in certain seasons, and commit such ravages among the cocoa-nut trees, (which form the chief food of the natives,) that every means are taken to destroy them.

There are very few birds to be found in this island. I have often wandered for three successive days without seeing one. This dearth of the feathered tribe is to be attributed to the natives having at a former period destroyed them in great numbers, for the sake of their plumage. A chief would frequently send his people for three months into the mountains, with no other object than to procure supplies of feathers. In the absence of fire-arms they had recourse to the stratagem of imitating their notes, which, I have heard, they did with surprising fidelity. This constant system of extermination has evidently rendered extinct many species of birds, not here alone, but amongst all the South Sea Islands which

I visited, the Navigators excepted, where this custom did not prevail.

On the Sunday after I arrived I accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Buzacott to church, where Mr. Barff preached in Tahitian, from the lx. chapter of Isaiah and 12th verse, to a congregation of at least three thousand persons, all, to my great surprise, habited in black cloth, made from the Paper Mulberry-tree. Upon enquiring the reason of this unusual and dismal attire, I was informed by Mr. Buzacott, that, on the recent death of his little girl, the king and chiefs requested that they and their people might be permitted to wear mourning, as they did not wish to appear in their ordinary gay habillements, while the families of their Missionary were in affliction. Such an instance of delicate respect might vainly be sought for amongst nations boasting more refinement. That it should be found here may well excite astonishment, when it is remembered that only ten years have

elapsed since these very men were cannibals, and addicted to every kind of vice !

Their former remorseless cruelty and savage propensities, the following anecdote, related to me by Mr. Buzacott, will fully exemplify. "When in a state of barbarism, revenge was carried, among the natives of Rarotonga, to a frightful excess. If no immediate opportunity occurred of retaliating an injury, inflicted on any particular individual, his chief, family, or party, the injured person imprinted a mark on some part of his body, in remembrance of the unexpiated offence. Should his death ensue before it was avenged, a similar mark, transmitted from father to son, fostered to the remotest posterity the baneful recollection, even when the dust of ages had accumulated over the silent resting-places of the aggressor and the aggrieved." A melancholy circumstance of this kind took place not long before the introduction of Christianity, and was recounted to Mr. Buzacott, by one

who is now a sincere convert to the true faith, and who spoke with horror and regret of the iniquities once prevalent in this island. The occurrence in question referred to a man who had quitted his own chief and joined the party of another, with whom he lived for several years, married there, and had a family of seven children. After the death of his wife, he, having offended the chief, was commanded to rejoin his former tribe. Apprehensive of removing by day, lest he might encounter an enemy, the deed of night was fixed upon by the unfortunate man for his departure, with his young and helpless family. But every precaution to conceal his flight was unavailing. It became known to the descendants of a party who had been killed in war by his ancestors, and they, thinking this would prove a favourable opportunity for satisfying their vengeance, lay in ambush till their victims approached, when rushing upon the unguarded group, they secured their prey, bore them to

a place prepared for the perpetration of the revolting crime, where they were all strangled, baked in the same oven, and afterwards devoured. The above incident, contrasted with the present condition of these islanders, proclaims the all-sufficient power of Religion, to overcome the most inveterate depravity inherent in man's nature.

We may remark, as another reason, for the orderly and moral demeanour, observable among the natives of Rarotonga, that, there being no safe anchorage near the island, they are rarely visited by European ships, the immorality of whose crews too often powerfully counteracts the excellent precepts and example of the Missionaries.

The pasturage here is extremely rich, and the cattle brought from England thrive well. This is land, extending more to the southward than the Society Isles, and being consequently colder, produces better butter and cream, both of which articles I found quite equal to

similar productions in my native country. Laden with presents of fruits, and other gifts from the natives, Messrs. Barff, Buzacott, and myself, sailed from Rarotonga on the 15th of May, and, two days after, reached a small island, belonging to the same group, named Wylotache.

## CHAPTER VI.

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### CONTENTS.

THE Scenery and Inhabitants of Wylotache—Two Native Teachers established there—The Palimestone Islands—Dangerous landing there—At present uninhabited—The Red Tropic-bird—The Samoa, or Navigator Islands—Could not land at Tutaila, owing to the Ferocity of the Inhabitants—No Signs, however, of Hostility; on the contrary, they seemed anxious for us to approach their Shores—Favourable Reception at Manono—The Appearance of the Islanders—English Sailors living amongst them—A Club Fight—Upola, a commodious Harbour—Hospitality of the Natives—Savai—The Residence of the King, Marlietos—Alarming Experiment practised upon me—Obscene Dances—Degraded State of the Females—Nature of the Towns and Settlements—Manners of the Inhabitants—The Form of Government in the Navigators—Much Improvement effected by the Native Teachers—Mission from England about to be established—The Natural Productions of the Islands—Food of the Natives—Reflections on the State of the Inhabitants.

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WYLOTACHE, like most of its companions in the Pacific, displays a rich and variegated landscape, but, nevertheless, appears to con-

siderable disadvantage when contrasted with the delightful Paradise from which I had just departed. The inhabitants are less neat and cleanly in their appearance, and evidently of indolent habits. So short a period, however, has elapsed, since the island has been placed under the guidance of Christian teachers (the two now there are natives) that it is scarcely possible for them yet to have effected any material improvement.

Our stay here was short, but as, for several succeeding days, light winds retarded the progress of our little schooner, it was not until the 23d that we descried a small group called the Palmestone Islands, where I was induced to proceed in search of cocoa-nuts. The wind having subsided into a calm, we at length discovered an opening in the reef wide enough to admit the boat, and landed on one of the small mottoes, which form a regular chain of islets, entirely surrounded by rocks, so united as to form stepping-stones from one to another.



This group appears at present uninhabited, though the remains of an old canoe found on the beach seemed to imply that such had not always been the case. It is covered with cocoa-nut trees, shrubs, and decayed vegetation. Among the bushes growing on the sands I observed numbers of the red tropic bird, alternately hatching and feeding their young. The parent-birds were so tame that they allowed themselves to be taken off the nest, without attempting any opposition. In their tails are two delicate crimson feathers, of an immense length, which are extremely valued, as ornaments to their caps and dresses, by many of the South Sea islanders.

From the Palmestone we steered for the Samoa, or Navigator Islands, eight in number, viz.: Savai, Upola, Tutuila, Manono, Apurina, Orosenga, Ofu, and Manna, which have hitherto been sedulously avoided by mariners, from the known ferocity of their inhabitants. On our approaching Tutuila,

several natives were seen standing on the beach, and on the mountains, with spears in their hands, from the tops of which floated, in the wind, large pieces of white cloth, waved as tokens of peace and invitations to land. Finding, however, that we were not inclined to come on shore, our schooner was soon surrounded by canoes, the crews of which appeared very friendly and offered some coconuts as presents. One of them being informed that our's was a Missionary vessel, manifested great delight, and told Mr. Barff he felt assured it was sent by the new God he had now learned to worship, and earnestly begged to accompany us; but this permission could not be given, as so many others would have desired the same privilege, and we should have found it impossible to accommodate them all. Previously to leaving this place, we neared the land sufficiently to obtain a view of Massacre-cove, visited by the celebrated French navigator La Perouse, and so called

from the melancholy fate of the Captain and several of the crew of the *Astrolabe*, a ship belonging to his squadron, who were killed in an encounter with the natives, while endeavouring to procure a supply of fresh water. The following morning we landed on Manono, appertaining to the leeward group, and there met a most favourable, and, what might almost be termed a courteous reception. The inhabitants, armed with clubs and spears, their long raven-hair flowing below their waists, and with the exception of a small girdle, made from the leaves of the Te-tree, tied around their middle, entirely naked, assembled in crowds to welcome us. The arrival of the Missionaries was greeted with tears of joy by the two native teachers, to whose praiseworthy exertions the present improved state of the Navigators may be attributed. Here I learned, that, some months previously, an English whaler had been totally wrecked on these shores, and the surviving crew, dispersed

among the different islands, were living under the protection of their respective chiefs. The conduct pursued by these sailors was reprehensible in the highest degree. Assuming the character of Missionaries, they baptized and affected to convert the islanders, at the same time encouraging all their evil habits, and living in the grossest licentiousness. I saw two of them, entirely destitute of clothing, and tattooed in conformity with the native fashion. The king seemed fully aware of the impropriety of these actions, and told Mr. Barff, at a subsequent period, that if the native teachers had not persuaded him to the contrary, he would have had them chopped to pieces, for interfering with his people, as he had plenty of axes which were sharp enough, and men who were ready to use them at his bidding.

Here I witnessed a club-fight, similar in all its bearings to the same kind of exhibition seen by Captain Cook at one of the Harpac

Islands. On the present occasion three thousand persons, habited in their war costumes, a great number of whom arrived from the adjacent islands, each desirous of outvieing his neighbour in dexterity and warlike prowess, were prepared for the contest. The multitude disposed themselves so as to form a circle round the combatants, and incited them by loud cries of discordant applause. The scene commenced by each warrior menacing the other, partly in words, but still more forcibly by expressive gestures, thus mutually signifying a wish that the opposing party should begin hostilities—then, retiring to their respective stations, they successively engaged in single combat, in a most scientific, and sometimes too effective manner, each warrior inflicting blows of such overwhelming force on the head of his opponent, as to render it a matter of surprise, to the bystanders, how any human skull could escape unfractured. No quarter was granted, until one of the contend-

ing parties was rendered insensible, or his club broken. Should any unfair advantage be assumed during the encounter, on either side, immediate death was the offender's portion. At the conclusion, the successful combatant seats himself before his chief, whose approbation he receives, then retires amongst his own party, who further celebrate the victory by loud yells and acclamations. These fights are mostly attended with much bloodshed, and though commenced as a mere trial of skill, stimulated by rivalry and competition, often become the means of exciting jealousy, revenge, and all their concomitant evils.

Upolu, the next island I visited, is of considerable extent, and possesses a commodious harbour, the only safe one in the Navigator Isles. Here I had an opportunity of partially examining into the natural history of the country, which presents a wider field of research to the ornithologist than any other group. While engaged in this pursuit, I ex-

perienced many instances of hospitality from the natives. The chiefs invariably placed me under the protection of a certain number of their followers, whose lives were answerable for my security. With these escorts I travelled several miles, and the distrust which at first accompanied my wanderings, gradually changed into confidence, as I observed the uniform, kind, and inoffensive conduct of my guides, one of whom, when a deep river obstructed our course, would mount me on his shoulders, wade me across, and, as soon as we arrived on the opposite side, would press his nose against mine in token of good-will. Sometimes my conductors signified a wish to introduce me to their friends, who, on perceiving my approach, instantly spread a mat in the centre of the dwelling, whereon I was invited to seat myself. The most silence was then preserved for some time, an indication here of the high respect after they produced the

Captain Cook, which was first handed to me and then passed round the circle. Of this nauseous beverage I was obliged to partake, as a refusal would have given great offence, and would probably have subjected me to annoyance and danger. The harbour of Upolu, the convenience of which I have before mentioned, is also one of singular beauty. Lying at the base of a high mountain, on the north-west side of the island, it is completely sheltered from the wind, and the water is of sufficient depth to admit ships of the largest class. Extending along the margin of the sea flourish trees of luxuriant growth, which also deck the sides and level summits of the surrounding mountains.

The next and last of the Navigators which we visited was Savai, also of large dimensions, supposed to be about one hundred and eighty miles in circumference. Here is fixed the residence of the king Marlietor, who possesses an absolute sway over the whole



group. Mr. Barff presented me to him as a white chief from England, and I was much impressed by his venerable appearance. Seated on a mat in the centre of a cabin hung round with various descriptions of war-like instruments, and encircled by numerous chiefs, his long grey-hair flowing around him; his countenance, naturally stern, rendered still more austere by the furrows of age, he seemed the personification of despotism itself. This ancient monarch had already, with many of his followers, embraced christianity, and assured Mr. Barff of his most strenuous support towards upholding and propagating its doctrines. He seemed very anxious that English Missionaries should be established at each of the Navigator Islands, and upon Mr. B. asking if, in that case, he would protect their property, he replied. "Yes, though it were as high as yonder mountain," at the same time pointing to one four thousand feet above the level of the Sea. Towards myself Marlietor was

also especially courteous, and promised to guarantee my safety while I remained within his territories. Unsupported by such an assurance, it would have been impossible for me to make any excursions in this country. In the course of one of these, my confidence was put to a severe test, as I observed, while wandering amongst the trees, far from the reach of any assistance, several natives approaching, armed with spears poised, as if in the act of throwing, and they immediately began exercising their skill, by seeing whose weapon could approach the nearest to me without striking me. During the several minutes that they were occupied with this alarming experiment, I remained perfectly still, and affected to be greatly amused at the whole proceeding. On being afterwards asked, through the medium of an interpreter, whether I thought it was their intention to kill me, I answered no, that never having injured them, I did not suppose they would

intentionally harm me. This reply seemed to give great satisfaction, and the whole party pressed their noses against mine, and laughed heartily in token of approbation.

The same description of obscene dances formerly practised in the Society Islands prevail here. On these occasions, several hundred persons assemble in a large house appropriated for the ceremony, the commencement of which is the only unobjectionable part. The warriors then, arranged on one side, perform different evolutions as in battle, while the women dance on the other. This semblance of decency, however, soon terminates, and, at a given signal, the slight leafy covering, previously assumed, is thrown aside, and the dancers, in a state of nudity, proceed to actions which delicacy forbids me to detail. At the request of Mr. Barff, Marlietor promised to abolish these disgraceful revels; but this, he said, must be done gradually, as his people took much delight in the amusement,

and would not easily relinquish it. Polygamy here is permitted to any extent, though the chiefs are generally contented with three wives, who each occupies separate dwellings, where the husband alternately resides for three days at a time. One palpable proof of the barbarous condition of these islanders may be adduced from the degraded state in which the females are placed, who are considered as slaves, and are obliged to perform every menial and laborious office: they are excluded even from participating in the meals of the other sex, and are only allowed to partake of such food as their masters may choose to permit.

The characteristic scenery of the Navigator Islands may be generally described as presenting a range of mountains, skirting the horizon, mostly level on the summits, and overspread with cocoa-nut and bread-fruit trees. On the plain below, intersected by clear streams and broad deep rivers, are seen fine timber forests and shady groves, animated

by the soft cooing of doves and echoing to the responsive notes of a thousand feathered warblers. The temperature of the climate is delightful, the extreme natural heat being agreeably mitigated by a refreshing breeze from the south-east trade-winds, and the constant shade afforded by the overhanging and luxuriant branches of the various trees with which the islands abound. After sunset, and at night, the air becomes cool and reviving; and this might be termed a season of repose and reflection, were not both apt to be unpleasantly interrupted by the buzzing and sting of innumerable musquitoes, which are here of an unusually large size, and prove a constant source of torment to the European.

The little towns or settlements which I saw, both near the coast and in the interior, are similarly constructed, each having in the centre a large oval building, designed for the dances before alluded to. The smaller buildings are generally circular, and thatched with

the substantial leaf of the palma christi, their roofs approaching so near the ground as only to leave room to enter in a stooping posture. All these dwellings are kept extremely clean, and surrounded by neat grass-plats, smooth and even as a bowling-green, from which the women collect every evening the dirt and rubbish that accumulate during the day. At one of these houses Mr. Buzacott and myself spent a night, and slept on mats spread on the floor, where reposed indiscriminately about sixty persons of both sexes. Not one of this numerous company offered to molest us in any way, but hospitably shared their curious mixture, composed of arrow-root, cocoa-nut, taro, and other productions of the soil. The canoes of these islands are very delicately formed, and ornamented on the top with white shells. Attached by a cord to some part of the outrigger are tame birds, generally of the dove species, which are also to be seen perched on sticks within the dwellings, and sometimes

carried abroad on the hands and shoulders of the natives. Both males and females are here entirely destitute of clothing, with the exception of the wives and daughters of the chiefs, who wear round their waists very handsome mats of snowy whiteness, made from the bark of a tree, and decorated with red feathers. Encircling their heads are also wreaths of shells, which have a very novel and pleasing effect.

The form of government throughout the Navigator Islands is despotic, and the whole group is under the dominion of one king, who has in each island a separate abode, which he alternately occupies. So great is the respect exacted by this monarch from his subjects, that none of them dare pass in front of any one of these dwellings during his residence there, under penalty of the severest punishment. The observance of this rule was dispensed with in favour of the Missionaries and myself, which, with other immunities of more

importance to us, I attribute to the great influence possessed over the minds of the South Sea islanders by Mr. Barff, who has for years made their habits and peculiarities his study, and who seems, by the magic of his words and manner, at once to controul and direct their inclinations and pursuits.

Notwithstanding the existence of many heathen vices in the Navigators, it is nevertheless evident that the exertions of the native teachers have already effected a considerable improvement; and it is equally certain that they are, in the first instance, better calculated to pave the way for the adoption of Christianity than European Missionaries; as the prejudices excited against a new religion, always difficult to overcome, are more likely to disappear when combated by persons of the same colour and origin as those they are anxious to convert. Not a single instance of theft occurred during our stay; and I am persuaded, at the present time, a vessel might



land, and leave unguarded her cargo, without one article being purloined. This is much to assert, when we consider how strong the propensity to steal exists amongst all the islanders of the Pacific. The natural excitement produced, by the introduction of a new faith, may be deemed a principal cause of this speedy rejection of old and long-seated habits; and this sudden reformation only requires to be strengthened by gradual and continued instruction, in order to substitute for transient zeal permanent principles, based upon solid convictions of right. The foundation has already been laid by native teachers; it remains for the greater experience of our English Missionaries to raise the superstructure. The favourable disposition towards the promotion of Christianity evinced by the king, whose unlimited power renders his support of high importance, offers another strong argument towards its general adoption. Malietor has already caused a small church to be built, and

is so impressed with the idea of a Deity superior to the objects of his former worship, that he considers every thing strange and unknown as the workmanship of this hitherto unacknowledged Being. On Mr. Buzacott's showing him a watch, he, after examining the machinery, appeared much surprised, and declared his opinion that it must have been made by the new God, as no mortal could have framed so curious an article. A Mission from England is now about to be established on these distant shores, whose inhabitants only await the coming of their new guides to cast aside the remaining ignorance and darkness which encompass them. It must be a happy reflection to the promoters of Christianity, that not one island throughout the Pacific has ever relapsed into idolatry after having once owned the supreme Creator of the universe.

In glancing at the natural productions of these islands, I may mention that they contain abundance of fine timber for ship-build-

ing, two species of bread-fruit, in addition to the common tree; also a dwarf cocoa-nut, of which both the tree, and especially the fruit, are much smaller than the ordinary kind,—the nut, moreover, of a finer and sweeter flavour. Amongst the birds, I discovered thirteen species, five of turtle-doves, one owl, one paroquet, one bittern, one water-hen, one swallow, one butcher-bird, one king-fisher, and one wood-pigeon. I have reason to believe that, had time and opportunity permitted a more extended research into the interior, there were many more different kinds to be obtained. The natives frequently offered me tame birds in exchange for beads, to which they seemed extremely partial. In one instance, the non-possession of a sufficient number prevented me from obtaining the most beautiful bird I had seen in the islands: its plumage was combined of blue, green, and vermillion, of the most rare and exquisite brightness. The owner requiring nine beads,

and I having but eight, was compelled, reluctantly, to relinquish the treasure. I found here, also, one species of snake, not venomous, and a large vampire-bat. The wild dog is, I understand, the only quadruped found in the Navigators, with the exception of pigs, which abound in all the South Sea Islands. The edible productions are the same as those indigenous to all tropical climes. The first specimen of native cookery which I tasted was a roasted pig, and, upon remarking to Mr. Barff, who dined with me, how remarkably plump it was, he told me, somewhat to my surprise, that they had dressed it without abstracting the entrails, which, in their opinion, were equally palatable with any other part of the animal. There is a great deal of tortoise-shell here, of which the islanders make rings and fish-hooks: they seem fully to appreciate its value, and will not part with any, unless for what they consider an adequate compensation.

Previously to leaving Savai, I was attacked by a dangerous illness, occasioned by tasting a poisonous plant, during one of my botanical excursions. I mention this unimportant fact, to record both the kindness and skill of my esteemed friend Mr. Barff, and also the extreme feeling and attention of the natives, who, with lamentations and cries, eagerly administered such remedies as my precarious situation required.

There is not, in the whole range of the Pacific, a finer group of islands than the Navigators. Cannibalism, that most revolting of barbarian practices, has never prevailed there, and it is viewed with a horror and disgust scarcely exceeded by the aversion which the more-refined European entertains against so unnatural a propensity. From the observations which I made upon the character of this people, I do not hesitate to aver, that the lapse of a few more years will, in point of religion and morality, place them on a par with

any of those amongst whom civilization and its teachers have long since been introduced. If my remarks should be deemed less copious and explicit than might be desirable, it must be borne in mind, that my residence was but of short duration, and, moreover, that three islands only, out of the eight, and those partially, are yet explored ; and that, at present, there do not exist those facilities for obtaining information which the further progress of improvement will afford. In the mean time, I can only hope that even this cursory view will induce others, as it has the narrator, to appreciate their many natural advantages, and to wish for still further intelligence respecting them. To the lover of science, and the philanthropist, there is not, perhaps, any equal extent of territory presenting a more interesting field for enquiry and speculation.

## CHAPTER VII.

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RE-VISIT Rarotonga—Curious Method of Salutation—Introduction to the King—Friendly Reception—Native Feast—Dwelling of the King—Atiu—Difficulty of Landing—Settlement of the Natives—Mr. Barff's Lecture—Curious subterranean Cavern—Indications of the former Existence of a Crater—Barter with the Natives—Narrow Escape of a Lieutenant under Captain Cook—Mangea—Its Situation—Semi-conversion of the Inhabitants—Contest between the two Parties—Its Result, and the Anticipations of the Missionaries—Contrast between the Mangeans and Natives of Atiu—Ingenuity displayed by the former in manufacturing Articles of Dress, &c.

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THE 10th of June witnessed our departure from the Navigators; and, on the 26th of the same month, the little schooner was brought

to an anchor before my favourite island of Rarotonga, where crowds of natives hastened to congratulate us upon our safe return, and manifested their delight by the usual salutation of pressing our hands and noses. During this my second sojourn at Rarotonga, I took a delightful ride, over excellent roads, surrounded on all sides by beautiful and glowing landscapes, to the opposite part of the island. Arrived at the small settlement it was my intention to visit, I received from the king and his chiefs the most friendly reception, and was invited by them to a native feast, consisting of bread-fruit, fish, cocoa-nuts, bananas, and chestnuts. My royal host, whose countenance bore evident marks of age, was dressed in a white shirt, with a piece of cloth, made by the islanders, fastened round his middle. His residence, unlike the dwellings of the great in other lands, was a neat white-plastered cottage, at the termination of a shady avenue, planted, at regular distances, with the luxu-



riant and graceful te-tree. A few days sufficed to replenish our ship-provisions, and we re-embarked, accompanied by Mrs. Barff and family. The 15th of July brought us to Atiu, another of the Harvey Islands. The landing was effected with some difficulty and danger, the inhabitants being obliged to carry us over the surf and rocks on their shoulders. The native settlement is erected on the most elevated part of this island, about three miles from the beach, and is exposed to the sea-breeze, which renders the situation salubrious and delightful in the extreme. In the centre of the town stands a neat stuccoed church; and scattered over the adjacent hills are several huts, some of which are completely enveloped in the branches of the cocoa-nut-tree. While here, I attended divine service, performed by Mr. Barff, who preached in the Tahitian language. There were present, upon this occasion, about eight hundred persons, arrayed in their native costume. In the course

of his lecture, Mr. Barff detailed some of the events of our late expedition to the Navigators, with which recital his audience seemed much gratified, and were especially pleased to find that the exertions of the native teachers had effected so much good.

At day-break, on the following morning, I commenced a pedestrian excursion to one of the subterraneous caverns peculiar to these islands, and was accompanied by fifty natives, bearing torches. After an hour's scrambling, over very rocky and broken ground, strewn with lava, and then passing through vast groves of bread-fruit, banana, and cocoa-nut trees, I found myself at the mouth of the cave, and, with difficulty, descended through an aperture resembling a chimney, about twenty feet deep. Having thus gained an entrance, I penetrated about half a mile, and could have proceeded much farther, but that some of the lights being extinguished by the confined atmosphere, and others burning but dimly, I, in

accordance with the advice of the natives, retraced my steps. The interior of this cavern presented a grand, sublime, and imposing spectacle: from the roof were suspended large pointed masses of chrystallized rock, in various grotesque forms, while a number of natural pillars, curiously and irregularly shaped, composed of the same transparent materials, seemed to support the arch, the glittering and almost supernatural beauty of which was greatly heightened by the reflected light of the passing torches. In several parts, below the surface of the ground, were small springs, of icy coldness, along the sides of which innumerable petrifications were visible. There are evident indications of a crater having once existed in this cave. On my return, I observed several of a similar description, but their entrances, being quite perpendicular, and many feet in depth, would not admit of my descent. I was told that, formerly, these subterranean caverns were resorted to by the

inhabitants, during war-time, as a refuge from the pursuit of their enemies. Previously to quitting Atiu, I obtained from the natives spears, wooden bowls, shells, and mats, in exchange for pins, needles, and other trifles. The Missionaries here, as well as elsewhere, have wrought wonderful improvements. It was at this island, when visited by Captain Cook, that a lieutenant and boat's-crew so narrowly escaped being killed and eaten: the fire for baking them was actually prepared.

On the 16th of July we visited Mangea, belonging to the same group, and a few miles distant from Atiu. The landing here was effected as at that island, being also destitute of a harbour, and equally difficult of access. The beach was crowded with hundreds of people, whose extreme curiosity to see us baffles all description. At length this human mass became so dense, as to oblige me to seek refuge, from suffocation, in the house of a native teacher. After some time had elapsed,

I again ventured forth, and was now only assailed by those who were anxious to dispose of their curiosities in lieu of European goods. Thus, lighted by a clear bright southern moon, were several hours consumed in this novel and amusing kind of traffic, which was only terminated as night approached, on the part of my dusky companions, with a promise of its being renewed the following day. A strange scene took place on the landing of Mrs. Barff, who, with her children, came on shore the next morning. The inhabitants never having seen an European female before, seemed half distracted with joy, danced, sung, yelled, and evinced the most extraordinary manifestations of surprise and delight. While here, I wandered with my gun a few miles into the interior, but did not find any specimens of natural history or botany different from those I had previously procured. During my rambles, I observed that the valleys, which are large and fruitful, bear evident marks of

having sunk from a more elevated surface to the one they now occupy. There is little doubt but that this has been the result of those convulsions of nature to which all the islands I visited have been subject, and the vestiges of which are every where traceable in the volcanic remains that lie scattered around. Here, also, I observed numerous caves, and, upon exploring them, found their structure and internal formation, in no important respect, dissimilar from the one I have already described.

At Mangea three native teachers are established, and while a portion of the islanders have been induced by them to adopt Christianity, and thus become, in some degree, civilized, an equal number still cling to their ancient manners and customs, and, although no longer worshipping idols, evince the contempt which they feel for their converted countrymen, by permitting no other covering to their bodies save the long dark hair which

nature gave them, and practising, in all their grossness, those lascivious dances, which, as they gratify their most powerful passions, offer one of the strongest barriers to the enlightenment of their reason. Not long ago these two parties had a fierce contest, which, although terminating in favour of the former, produced no other effect than that of widening still more the breach which had already separated them. The native teachers, however, indulge sanguine hopes, springing, I fear, rather from their anxiety for, than from a probability of, their speedy fulfilment, that a short time will only elapse ere these heathenish practices will be relinquished for more civilized habits and less immoral amusements.

The Mangeans are a tall, handsome, and athletic race, their features prominent, and strongly marked, their large black eyes indicative of the wild and fierce spirit which animates them. I could not help remarking what a striking contrast they exhibited to their

neighbours of Atiu, who, with their small nose, thick lips, low slanting forehead, and the sullen expression of their countenances, bear a strong resemblance to the English bulldog. They are industriously disposed, and display much ingenuity in manufacturing many curious articles of dress, carving in wood, and converting stones into edged-tools, which may be called their chief mechanical instruments. The scenery, throughout the Harvey group, presents the same natural characteristics, but not one of the islands equals the fertility or the beauty of Rarotonga.



[illegible]

... .. Rain at its  
... .. Gene-  
... .. Characteristics of  
... ..  
... ..

of Huahini. We were received most cordially by the queen, who again offered me an apartment in her house. Accounts, during our absence, had arrived from the Marquesas, verifying the fears I entertained relative to the safety of the American Missionaries, who, with their wives and families, had only escaped destruction by the providential interference and protection of the Royal Sovereign, an English whaler. This rescue was attended with the loss of five men, including two Europeans, all of whom were killed and eaten by the natives. One, an Otaheitean, underwent the most cruel torture, being tied to a tree, and, while yet living, having the flesh deliberately cut off his thighs and the calves of his legs; his inhuman murderers sucking the blood as it flowed from the wounds. This horrible tragedy was enacted under a tree, where I had often stood admiring the various-coloured doves, which, in great numbers, roost

upon the branches! The cause assigned for these outrages was, that the Marquesans desired to retain the wives of the Missionaries.

July 29th, I went over to Ulitea in Mr. Barff's boat, for the purpose of paying a farewell visit to Mr. Loxton, previously to my departure for England, which I was now beginning to contemplate, and, upon my arrival, was deeply afflicted with the intelligence of his death, which had occurred a few days before. The situation of his widow was very distressing, surrounded, as she was, by persons of a different colour, speaking a strange language, in whom she could have little confidence, and from whom she could expect neither consolation nor advice. Mr. Loxton was a young man, whose talents and excellent education, joined to an unflinching perseverance and a mild amiableness of character, gave promise that his exertions, in the station which he was called upon to fulfil, would have been

crowned with the most happy effects. I, whose acquaintance with him was but slight, already esteemed him as a friend; and those with whom he had longer and more intimately been connected, loved him as a brother. Upon the succeeding day, I returned to Mr. Barff with tidings of the melancholy and unexpected event, and, at his request, conducted Mrs. Loxton to his residence at Huahini.

August 20th, I was accompanied by a native on a rather hazardous botanical excursion to the summit of the highest mountain, about three thousand feet above the level of the sea. Here I collected a variety of land-shells, which are found, in great numbers, attached to the leaves of the nest-fern, which grows on all the hilly parts of the island. The coral-reefs abound in, what are appropriately-termed, parrot-fish, a small but exquisite race, of the most rare and beautiful colours, shining in all the brilliancy of gold, silver, purple, and ver-

million, and looking like so many precious gems sparkling in the water. In the fresh-water rivers are found the less-attractive but more eatable prawn, double the size of our English one, and craw-fish in plentiful abundance. There is also a species of salmon, larger and coarser than the European salmon, much in favour with the islanders, who, disdaining the artificial practice of cooking and dishing it up with savoury sauce, prove their love of "nature unadorned," by dipping it in salt-water and devouring it raw! A curious animal, called here a cat-fish, with legs at least three feet long, frequents the coral-reefs; and it is a common amusement of the natives to dive into the water for them, when they immediately twine their legs round the body of the diver, and are thus brought to land. One day a poor fellow was shewing his dexterity in this manner, when his long hair was retained in the jaws of a huge craw-fish, ensconced in a

fissure of the neighbouring rock, and, before his peril could be ascertained, he was drowned.

After quitting Huahini, I staid a day at Sir Charles Saunderson's Island, and on the 3d of September was comfortably located at the dwelling of Mr. Pritchard, the English Missionary residing in Otaheite, the principal island of the Georgian group. Here I met Messrs. Stolworthy, Rogerson, and Darling, the new mission from England, destined for the Marquesas. Of the expulsion of the American residents, they had not heard previously to sailing, and now that they had come so far on their hazardous journey, they resolved, notwithstanding the unfavourable reports, to persevere in, and, if possible, accomplish their object. This adventurous party were on the eve of departure for Resolution Bay, in the Island of St. Christina, and I was much pressed to accompany them, but had neither time nor inclination again to brave the

horrors of those shores. Of the result of their efforts I am still ignorant, as no account reached the Society Islands during my stay there.\*

On the 6th of September the Challenger frigate, under the command of Captain Seymour, anchored in this harbour, and I was much gratified to recognise on board many old shipmates, the companions of former days, when, like them, I braved the dangers of the

\* Since my arrival in England, intelligence has reached this country of the Missionaries having resided two months at St. Christiana. Though, at present, serious doubts are entertained as to their success, a source has lately arisen, whence a slight hope may be derived, that their efforts for the civilization of this wild and fierce people may not ultimately prove unavailing. The young king of Portanna Maria, one of the numerous bays belonging to the Island of Newkehevah, is at present under the protection of the London Missionary Society, and the expected conversion of this youthful savage, if eventually effected, offers, at least, a probability that his influence and example may produce a similar change in his idolatrous countrymen.

seas, and did my sovereign's bidding. The meeting with friends, the sight of familiar countenances, that bring to the mind a host of happy recollections, must ever be a welcome event; but when this occurs in a strange and distant land, the pleasure is enhanced, and the greeting is doubly delightful. In their society I made several excursions, and, perhaps, a sketch, taken during one of these, may not be uninteresting to the reader.

Early on the morning of the 15th, our party, consisting of Captain Seymour, Lieutenant Daws, Mr. Kay the surgeon, Mr. Charlton the British Consul at the Sandwich Islands, and myself, left the Challenger in a twelve-oared cutter, for the purpose of visiting a lake in the interior of the island. After a fatiguing row of some hours' duration, we reached, towards night, the residence of Mr. Henry, whose father was one of the first Missionaries who settled here, nearly forty years



ago. Being much fatigued with the exertions of the day, we swung our hammocks to the beams of the house, and soon lost all sense of weariness in the embraces of Somnus. The next morning we arose at day-break, and, after having partaken of the hospitalities of our host, commenced the second part of our journey by land, several natives following, carrying food, &c. The path lay between precipices and mountains, towering two or three thousand feet above us, from the summits of which rolled magnificent cataracts, whose broken waters formed many grotesque shapes, and reflected various sparkling hues, while glittering in the rays of the sun; but the nature of our route, continually intercepted by a rapid river, did not allow more than a casual glance at the grand and stupendous scenery which every where surrounded us. No less than seventy-eight times were we obliged to ford the same stream in different places, fre-

quently up to our waists in water; and the last mile of our road extended along a frightful precipice, nearly perpendicular, and of so rugged and uneven a surface, as to render every step fraught with imminent danger. At length all the difficulties and obstacles, and they were not a few, which we had encountered, being surmounted, after eleven hours incessant walking, the object of our hazardous exertion suddenly appeared, in solitary grandeur, before us—not a ripple broke on its calm bosom, not a murmur interrupted the solemn stillness that reigned around, as the sun, just sinking below the horizon, threw a shadowy splendour over the dark grey mountains, which, covered to their very summits with trees of luxuriant growth, rose in gigantic majesty above the lake. On its margin our attendants erected a temporary hut, composed of plantain-leaves, where, after having discussed a hearty meal, and talked over our

day's adventures, well satisfied with the reward which had crowned our toil, we sought repose amidst a scene which seemed to woo the tired traveller to rest within its peaceful solitude. About midnight, the noise of some wild ducks, inmates of the lake, aroused me from my leafy couch, and the extreme beauty of the night tempted me to stray beyond the precincts of our dormitory. The moon had just risen, and her bright beams played upon the surface of the lucid waters—a slight breeze rustled among the surrounding vegetation, and, save that, not a sound was audible but the breathing of my slumbering companions—insect and bird were hushed in repose, awaiting the approach of morn.

“ All heaven and earth are still : from the high host  
Of stars, to the lulled lake and mountain-coast,  
All is concentrated in a life intense,  
Where not a beam, nor air, nor leaf is lost,  
But hath a part of being and a sense  
Of that which is of all, Creator and defence.”

There is an imposing tranquillity, an inspiring beauty in a moonlight landscape that insensibly leads the mind from the contemplation of Nature and her thousand works, to reflect on the vast and inscrutable power, the unapproachable majesty of that Being, who, from a chaotic and confused mass, has given to this physical world so much harmony, symmetry, and loveliness !

The form of the lake is nearly circular, and the mean diameter about a mile and a half: I was informed by the natives, that in some parts it is a hundred fathoms deep, but towards the centre no soundings could be obtained : the adjacent ground is covered with black basaltic rock, and altogether it presents much the appearance of an extinguished volcano. The vegetation in the vicinity consists chiefly of the ferny tribe, amongst which is the magnificent arborescent fern, similar to that of New Zealand, which often rises to the

height of forty feet; the mountain plantain, called by the natives *fae*, is very abundant; sandal-wood also grows upon the surrounding mountains, but is difficult to procure, as it flourishes in the most elevated situations, and such as are not easy of access.

The close of the third day, from the commencement of this trip, brought us again to the house of Mr. Henry, where a well-stored table awaited our arrival; and on the morrow we were on board the *Challenger*. Shortly afterwards I was present at an entertainment given by the captain to a number of chiefs, who conducted themselves, during the whole visit, with great propriety, took wine at dinner, and conformed with amazing facility to all European customs. They were dressed in shirts, but wore no other garment except the usual linen girdle around their waist. On this occasion the guns were fired, and all the evolutions necessary for defending a ship against an

enemy performed, to the infinite amusement of the islanders. On the 24th of September, the Challenger quitted Otaheite, leaving with me the gratifying remembrance of many agreeable hours spent in the society of old friends, as well as of the polite attention of Captain Seymour, with whom I had not the pleasure of a previous acquaintance.

October 8th. I visited the Island of Eineo, a few miles distant from Otaheite, in a small schooner belonging to Mr. Charlton. Mr. Simpson, the Missionary there, has a handsome commodious house, in which a school, for the Missionaries' children, has been established. This dwelling is well adapted for the purpose, having a fine lawn in front, encircled by a high stone wall, altogether bearing much the appearance of a moderately-sized park. The arrangements, both external and internal, reflect the highest credit on the immediate superintendents and original projectors of this

institution, calculated as it is to produce so much benefit to the children of the European residents in this remote portion of the globe.

At Ulitea I visited one of the ancient Morais, where the natives were accustomed to sacrifice their prisoners; it was situated on the eastern side of the island, about half a mile from the beach, and consisted of a large pile of stones, raised six feet from the ground, and about one hundred feet in length, and thirty in breadth: on every side it was enveloped in a vast grove of large trees, on the branches of which used to be hung the bodies of the victims: bones and skulls were scattered in heaps around, and, upon my taking up one, with the intention of carrying it away, my guide, who was a very old man, and lived in the times when human sacrifices were offered, manifested such strong reluctance, that I thought it advisable to relinquish it. The gloomy horror of this place, contrasted

with the glow and freshness of the surrounding scenery, presented no unfaithful type of the past and present condition of the inhabitants ; and, upon emerging from this monument of their former barbarity, I could not but be gratified with the thought, that the causes which led to its erection had gradually been removed by the hand of civilization.

November 9th. I ascended one of the loftiest mountains in Otaheite, and, while there, the tempest raged with unremitted violence, the rain descending in torrents, accompanied by peals of thunder, and vivid flashes of lightning, I beheld, in the valleys below, the sun shining in meridian splendour, the weather serene and tranquil, and all nature smiling in calm and quiet beauty. In these elevated regions the thermometer falls many degrees below its usual temperature. The day prior to my leaving Otaheite, I rode over to the establishment of Mr. Nott, a distance



of six miles from the harbour of Papiety. This gentleman and Mr. Henry are the only two now living of the Missionaries who first settled on these shores. The government of this island is at present in the hands of a young queen, about twenty years of age, niece to the late King Pomare. Her complexion is much lighter than that of the ordinary natives; her hair, of a jetty blackness, flowing in graceful ringlets on her shoulders, is generally surmounted with a tiara of natural flowers: her appearance is altogether extremely prepossessing, if not beautiful, and she forcibly reminded me of Lord Byron's Neuha.

I cannot take a final leave of the Society Islands, without offering a few closing remarks. The inhabitants possess, in an eminent degree, the qualities of kindness and hospitality towards strangers, to whom they are always ready to lend assistance in any difficulty or

danger. To their children they are extremely affectionate ; and, in their manners, they exhibit a natural gentleness which is especially pleasing. The females, when dressed in their native costume, with a wreath of shells or flowers round their head, have a simple and interesting appearance, but are certainly quite destitute of that extreme beauty so glowingly depicted by Captain Cook and other early navigators, who, having long been debarred from the sight of a fair face, were, in consequence, tempted to transform these dusky damsels into angels of light, upon the same principle that they would hail, with extacy, the first glimpse of *terra firma* after a long and tedious voyage, conjuring that into a beautiful landscape which, at any other time, would claim from them neither admiration nor notice. Flagrant crimes, such as murder and aggravated robbery, are here unknown, though lesser faults are not always so scrupulously avoided. These, even the continued watchful.

ness and zealous care of the Missionaries are unable, at all times, to prevent, especially as every evil propensity is fostered, and crimes, before unheard of, perpetually engendered by the pernicious example and disgraceful conduct of some worthless individuals from Sydney, who traffic in spirits with the islanders, as well as of the sailors from different whale-ships, with which the harbour is filled, at certain seasons of the year. These men set all morality and religion at defiance, triumphing in their too-frequently successful efforts to corrupt and mislead the natives. This system, as may be supposed, increases the labours and difficulties of the Missionaries, who have not only original barbarism and deep-rooted prejudice to contend with, but also the influence of more recent evil. The contrast exhibited in the demeanour and moral perfection of the inhabitants of those islands which possess no accommodation for shipping proves, that when Missionary influence alone prevails, it is pro-

ductive of all the good which the best-wishers to the cause of Christianity can desire, and fully controverts the erroneous and unjust prejudices against the Missionaries, who, from my own observation, can aver, never shrink from the performance of any duty, however arduous, which their responsible situation requires. For several months, and under the most trying circumstances, I was the constant companion of Mr. Barff, to whose excellencies my feeble pen can do but imperfect justice : he is alike the physician both of the bodies and souls of those whose immortal weal is committed to his care, and finds in their love, obedience, and respect, the best reward for his unremitting exertions. In Otaheite, and all other islands where an English Mission is established, there are native schools, which are well and regularly attended by both sexes, including adults and children.

Two years had now nearly elapsed since I left my native land, and, independently of other

considerations, the climate, and constant exposure to heat, had so far impaired my health, that I found it necessary to expedite my return to England. Accordingly, on the 11th of November, I embarked on board the Brighton, an American whaler. On our passage, we touched at Tibonia, an island situated 23° 25" south latitude, and 149° 20" west longitude. It was here the mutineers of the Bounty remained three months, prior to their final settlement on the small island of Pitcairn, where several of their descendants still reside.

At this place I finished my wanderings, and bade a final adieu, on the one hand to those barbarous and depraved people on whom the light of reason had not dawned, nor the purity of religion shed its influence, and, on the other hand,

“ To the gentle island and the genial soil,  
The friendly hearts, the feasts without a toil ;  
The courteous manners, but from nature caught,  
The wealth unhoarded, and the love unbought.”

The reflections which will naturally occur to any one, on an examination of the moral qualities which are prominent in the natives of the several islands whose characteristics I have endeavoured to depict, must be those of humiliating sorrow, on perceiving such strongly-marked indications of the natural depravity of man ; they must tend forcibly to corroborate this great truth, that man, if left to his own brute propensities and instincts, untaught in the elements of divine truth, and uncurbed by its restraints, would sink into the debasing profligacy of the Marquesan islander, acknowledging no other monitor but his own passions, no other God but his own interest.

FINIS.



LIST  
OF  
THE FERNS

IN THE

*Botanical Collection made by Mr. Nightingale*

IN

THE PACIFIC ISLES.

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BY DR. HOOKER.

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I. LYCOPODINEÆ. *Sw.*

1. *Lycopodium Phlegmaria*. Linn.—Hook. et Arn. *Bot. of Beech. Voy. v. 1. p. 73.*

2. *Lycopodium cernuum*. Linn.—Hook. et Arn. *l. c. p. 73.*

II. GLEICHENIACEÆ. *Br.*

3. *Gleichenia Hermannii*. Br.—Hook. et Grev. *l. c. Fil. t. 14.*—Hook. et Arn. *l. c. p. 73 et 103.*—*Mertensia dichotoma*, Willd.—*Polypodium dichotomum*. Thunb.



4. *Gleichenia glauca*.—*Mertensia glauca*. Sw.  
*Syn. Fil.* p. 164 et 390.—*Polypodium glaucum*.  
*Thunb. Jap.* p. 338.

This is very different from all the other published species of *Gleichenia*, in the copiously-bipinnated branches of the frond; but it is very nearly indeed allied to the *Gleichenia gigantea*. Wall. (from Nipal), which scarcely differs in any other particular than the downy underside of the frond.

### III. OSMUNDACEÆ. Br.

5. *Lygodium reticulatum*. Schkuhr, *Fil.* t. 139  
(lower figure.)

Schkuhr's figure admirably represents the fructified state of this plant. The barren pinnæ are oblong, acuminate, truncated, and almost cordate at the base, often obliquely so.

6. *Schizæa dichotoma*. Sw.—Hook. et Grev.  *Ic.*  
*Fil.* t. 17.—Hook. et Arn.  *l. c.* p. 73.

### IV. POLYPODIACEÆ. Kaulf.

7. *Polypodium alternifolium*. Willd?—Bory in  
*Duperrey's Voy.* v. 1. p. 261.—Hook. et Arn.  *l. c.*  
p. 74.

8. *Polypodium phymatodes*. Linn.—Hook. et  
Arn.  *l. c.* p. 74.

9. *Polypodium latifolium*. Forst. *Prodr. n.* 457.—Schkuhr, *Fil. t.* 24.—Hook. et Arn. *l. c.* p. 74.

10. *Niphobolus bicolor*. Kaulf.—*Polypodium dealbatum*, Vahl. Schkuhr, *Fil. t.* 8.—*Polypodium serpens*, Forst.

11. *Antrophyum plantagineum*. Kaulf. B. Lessoni. Hook. et Arn. *l. c.* p. 74.—A. Lessoni. Bory in Duperrey's *Voy.* p. 255. *t.* 28. *f.* 2.—*A. plantagineum*, Blume, *Fl. Jav. t.* 30.

12. *Aspidium?* *Amoa*, *n. sp.* tota pubescens, frondibus pinnatis, pinnis alternis oblongis obtusiusculis sessilibus membranaceis ad apicem serrulatis, basi truncatis, sursum breviter auriculatis, soris.....

Allied, in general appearance, to *Asp. exaltatum* & *biserratum*, but the frond is all over downy, especially the stipes rachis, and midrib. There is, unfortunately, no fructification on the specimens, which is, however, probably marginal. "*Amoa*" is marked as the native name of the plant.

13. *Aspidium Serra*. Sw.—Schkuhr, *Fil. t.* 33 *b.* (right-hand figure.)

14. *Aspidium unitum*. Sw.—Schkuhr, *Fil. t.* 33 (left-hand figure.)

15. *Aspidium coriaceum*. Sw.—Schkuhr, *Fil. t.* 50.

16. *Asplenium Nidus*. Linn.—Hook. et Arn. *l. c.* p. 74.

17. *Pteris pedata*. Willd.—Langsd. et Fisch. *Ic. Fil. p.* 17. *t.* 20.—Hook. et Arn. *l. c.* p. 107.

18. *Pteris excelsa*; frondibus bipinnatifidis bipinnatisve (5-6-pedal.) foliolis lanceolatis (12-15-pollic.) profunde pinnatifidis v. pinnatis, laciniis (vel pinnis coadunatis) lineari-lanceolatis approximatis subfalcatis apice acutis serratis, rachi stipteque glabris. *Gaudich. in Freycin. Voy. Botan. p. 388.*

Gaudichaud observes, with respect to this fine fern, that the natives of the Sandwich Islands eagerly collect the soft and fragile extremities, and eat them in a crude state.

19. *Pteris Vespertilionis*? *Labill. Fl. Nov. Holl. v. 2. t. 245.*

This is not in fructification; but the sterile frond seems quite to agree with that of *P. Vespertilionis*.

20. *Vittaria elongata*. *Sw.—Hook. et Arn. l. c. p. 107.*

21. *Lindsæa propinqua*, *n. sp.*; fronde bipinnata, pinnis subquinque patentibus, pinnulis oblongo-trapeziformibus margine superiore crenatolobatis, infimis cuneiformibus, soris ferè exacte marginalibus interruptis.

The species most nearly allied to this is the West Indian *L. trapeziformis* of Dryander; but in that, the pinnules are entire, and the sori continuous. The *L. trapeziformis*, again, of Langsdorff and Fischer, (from Brazil,) has the sori interrupted, as in our plant, but, at the same time, placed considerably within the almost entire margin of the pinnules.

22. *Davallia pectinata*. *Sm. Act. Taur. v. 5, p. 414.—Hook. et Grev. Ic. Fil. t. 139.—Nephrodium Gaimardianum. Gaud. in Freycin. Voy. Botan. p. 335, t. 12. f. 1.*

23. *Davallia gibberosa*. Sw. Syn. Fil. p. 134 et 351.—Schkuhr, Fil. t. 128.—Hook et Arn. l. c. p. 75.—*Trichomanes gibberosum*. Forst. Prodr. n. 470.

24. *Davallia solida*. Sw. Syn. Fil. p. 132 et 345.—Schkuhr, Fil. t. 126.—*Trichomanes solidum*. Forst. Prodr. n. 475.

25. *Alsophila extensa*. Desv.—Hook. et Arn. l. c. p. 76.—*Cyathea extensa*. Sw. Syn. Fil. p. 139 et 364.—Schkuhr, Fil. t. 132.—*Polypodium extensum*. Forst. Prodr. n. 453.

26. *Alsophila?* *polypodioides*, n. sp.; fronde bipinnata, pinnulis oblongo-lanceolatis attenuatis sessilibus crenato-pinnatifidis, lobulis unisoriferis, rachibus valde pilosis, stipite aculeato.

This is, probably, a tall-growing tree-fern, of which the fronds are considerably different from any species with which I am acquainted. The stipes is rather stout, rough, with very short prickles below. Primary pinnae almost opposite, 6-8 inches long, much attenuated at the apex, as are the secondary ones: these latter bear pinnules, which are quite sessile and adnate, but not decurrent, 6-8 lines long, tapering upwards, hairy in the younger parts, crenato-pinnatifid, the crenatures, or lobules, bearing a sorus, which occupies nearly the whole space between the margin and the centre, and is totally destitute of involucre, but evidently inserted at the forking of a nerve. The rachis is every where clothed with rather long patent hairs, some of which are chaffy. The narrow pinnules, singularly incurved at the margins, and long attenuated extremities, are very characteristic of this species.

27. *Trichomanes glauco-fuscum*, n. sp.; fronde subovata bipinnatifida, laciniis linearibus bi-trifidis obtusiusculis, marginibus integerrimis pallidioribus,

involucris paullo ante apicem laciniarum brevium insertis cylindraceis, ore integerrimo dilatato, stipite elongato gracili.

The fronds are ovate, 2-3 inches long, twice shorter than the slender stipes, and remarkable, in the dry state, for a brown colour tinged with a grayish bloom, and, if the plant be held between the eye and the light, the margin will be seen to be paler than the centre of the laciniae.

28. *Trichomanes rigidum*. Sw.

This is exactly the same as the West Indian *T. rigidum*.

29. *Hymenophyllum polyanthum*, n. sp.; alatum, rigidum, fronde lanceolata pinnata, pinna profunde bipinnatifidis, laciniis attenuatis integerrimis obtusis, involucris copiosis axillaribus lato-urceolatis nitidis, ore valde membranaceo dilatato obtuse bilabiato, stipite rachique (superne alata excepta) setosis.

This is certainly one of the finest species of this beautiful genus; a foot and a half long, stout and rigid, opaque, of a dark, almost blackish green colour; the upper half abundantly furnished with axillary, conspicuous, glossy, very membranaceous involucre,



